



ENGLISH LITERATURE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Key Stage 3

Transition Stage

In Year 7, we aim to foster and develop in our students the habit of reading more widely. This is reflected in the curriculum through the variety of texts they engage with - contemporary novels, poetry, Gothic literature and a Shakespearean play.

To develop their analytical skills, students are taught to explore the genre, structure and writer's choice of language in a given text to help them understand its meaning.

Students are encouraged to read and then reflect on their reading by completing a reading log which is monitored by their teacher.

Foundation Stage

At the Foundation Stage, students explore more challenging texts including Victorian novels, Shakespearean plays, diverse poetry and contemporary plays.

They continue to develop their analytical skills by critically engaging with the writer's intentions through form, structure and language: skills.

To further promote reading, there is a focus on reading for pleasure, often involving book prizes or visits from outside authors that bring novels to life.

Key Stage 4

Examination Stage

Students build on their knowledge of literature through the study of novels, plays and poetry. They begin by studying the social and historical context in which the texts were written, applying this knowledge to the understanding of the writer's intentions. They focus on the writer's craft by considering literary devices such as language and structure within a text and how it is used for effect.

Students are encouraged to form interpretations and arguments around the texts studied by both exploring and evaluating a writer's work. They are introduced to a number of close reading strategies that help them form these interpretations so that they become critical readers.

Key Stage 5

Advanced Stage

The course enables students to read a wide variety of texts. They engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts across the three main genres: drama, prose and poetry. They develop and apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation.

The texts studied range across time and include a play by Shakespeare and poetry of the 21st century. To prepare them for the skills needed for postgraduate study at university such as independent research, editing and extended essay writing, students of Literature undertake a personal study of their choice for their coursework folder.